Rubber Production

5949. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of rubber in the country during 1991-92, State-wise; and

(b) the total area used for rubber plantation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The State-wise estimated production of natural rubber during 1991-92, is as follows:

State/Union Territory	*Production (Tonnes) 1991-92*
	(Estimated)
Kerala	341.500
Tamil Nadu	14,500
Karnataka	7,100
Tripura	1,100
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	500
Others	300
	365,000

(b) The total estimated area used for rubber plantation during 1991-92 is 460,000 hectares.

[*Translation*]

Imports and Exports by S.T.C. AND M.M.T.C.

5950. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation and Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation have been provided with adequate facilities and manpower to deal with the import and export activities efficiently;

(b) whether various departments of the Government also deal with import and export activities;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to entrust the work of imports and exports exclusively to S.T.C. and M.M.T.C. with a view to minimise the expenditure in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The office of Directorate General of Supplies & Disposal (DGS & D) as the Central Purchase Organisation is involved in Other Govt. Departments may also be directly involved in import/export depending upon the circumstances.

(d) to (f). In the context of liberalisation of trade policy, no such proposal is under consideration.

[*English*]

Exports from Southern States

5951. SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: